

Application No. 10/768,501
Amendment Dated April 28, 2005
Reply to Office Action of November 29, 2004

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed November 29, 2004, has been carefully considered by Applicant. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments to the claims and drawings, and the remarks that follow.

The Examiner requests Applicant to draw a clear line of demarcation between the present Application and the Applicant's related Application No. 10/768,500. The present Application and the related application both relate to a connector clip for verifying complete connection between a connector and pipe. Each application describes and claims separate and distinct inventive aspects of a connector clip.

For example, the present application claims a connector clip comprising a clip body and connection verifying body being integrally connected by a connection part at an opposite position of openings of the clip body and connection verifying body. The related application recites an axial distance between the opposite clip portion of the clip body and an opposite axial end of the connection verifying portion being designed shorter than an axial length between the annular engagement projection and the annular verification projection of the pipe, and designed equal to or longer than an axial distance between the inserting end of the pipe and an opposite axial end of the sealing member.

Objection to the Drawings

By the present Amendment, drawing figures 1-4 are amended and, more specifically, are labeled as "prior art". No new matter is added by these amendments. The drawings are believed to satisfy the requirement of the Office Action and are believed in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. 11-6591. By the present Amendment, claims 1-3 are amended and claims 5-12 added to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention, and render the same allowable over the applied references.

Claim 1 has been amended to state that the clip body and the connection verifying portion are integrally connected with one another via a connection part at an opposite position of the openings of the connector receiving recess and pipe receiving recess. Such arrangement is clearly shown in the drawing figures, for example, see e.g., Figs 5-8, connection piece (109). Some advantages of the claimed arrangement are discussed in paragraphs 11-12 of the present Application, and include the fact that during connection, the connection verifying portion 63 (verifying body 83) is not easily deformed, but still the overall connector clip may be easily fitted on a connector and a pipe, because the connection verifying portion 63 is only partially connected to the clip body 61.

The invention of claim 1 overcomes the disadvantages of the arrangement shown in the cited Japanese patent, which are discussed in the present Application, paragraph 6:

Meanwhile, in a connector clip for verifying complete connection between a connector and a pipe disclosed in the Patent Document 1, the connection verifying portion is constructed by a pair of thin-walled restraining portions. So, when the pipe is incompletely connected to the connector, if the annular verification projection is strongly pushed against the restraining portions, the restraining portions are possibly deformed so as to allow the annular verification projection to pass through therebetween. Such connector clip does not offer highly reliable function for verifying complete connection. In order to enhance reliability of the function for verifying complete connection, the connector clip may be formed hard. However, if the connector clip is formed hard, the connector clip might not be mounted without exerting excessive force thereto even when the pipe is completely connected to the connector. Moreover, considering factors of dimensional errors of the connector and/or the pipe, it is anticipated to be more difficult to mount the connector clip to the connector and the pipe.

Claims 2-12

Claims 2-12 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are thus also believed allowable in view of the above remarks, and the detailed subject matter recited therein.

Application No. 10/768,501
Amendment Dated April 28, 2005
Reply to Office Action of November 29, 2004

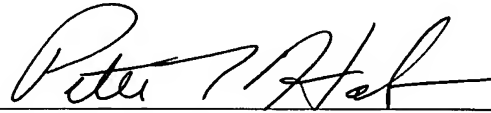
Conclusion

The present Application is thus believed in condition for allowance with claims 1-12. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

ANDRUS, SCEALES, STARKE & SAWALL, LLP

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter T. Holsen", is written over a horizontal line.

Peter T. Holsen
Reg. No. 54,180

Andrus, Scales, Starke & Sawall, LLP
100 East Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 1100
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202
Telephone: (414) 271-7590
Facsimile: (414) 271-5770

Application No. 10/768,501
Amendment Dated April 28, 2005
Reply to Office Action of November 29, 2004

Amendments to the Drawings:

Attachment: Replacement Sheets